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alone it seems is the significance of this eloquent plea for us. We have more than enough of assisted emigrants; but if societies can be organized in Europe to inform emigrants as to the new conditions, to enable the more energetic and worthy ones to come under the most favorable circumstances, and to discourage all those who threaten to become charges upon the community, then will they be deserving of the most cordial support from our people. This seems to be the end desired by the author, and deserves hearty coöperation so long as its activities are strictly limited to the dissemination of information and the encouragement of deserving emigrants from Italy.

W. Z. R.

INDEX NUMBERS.

The following statement is made by Mr. Sauerbeck, in continuation of the figures supplied in former years in a communication to the Secretary of the Institute of Bankers (London):—

3 Moorgate Street Buildings, E.C.

12th January, 1893.

SIR:—

I have much pleasure in giving you the result of my index numbers of the prices of 45 commodities (1867-77 = 100).

1873	111	1887	68
1880	88	1888	70
1888	82	1889	72
1884	76	1890	72
1885	72	1891	72
1886	69	1892	68

The index number for 1892 is 4 points lower than that for the preceding year, and is on a par with 1887, the lowest figure on record. The great trade development in 1888-89 led to an enormous increase in the production of many commodities, and the depression which commenced in 1890, aggravated by the financial difficulties, by the effects of the McKinley Tariff, deficient harvests and the fall of silver, continued all through 1891 and 1892.

The various articles comprised in the group of corn declined almost uninterruptedly during the past year until, at the end of the year, English wheat had fallen to 25s. 8d. per quarter, the lowest price known for the last 100 or 130 years. The middling and inferior sorts of beef and mutton were depressed particularly towards the end of the year, but pork ruled distinctly higher than in 1891. Sugar did not vary to any great extent, but the lower classes of tea have risen sharply since the month of August. Coffee has now been on a very high level for about 6 years, and is the only

article the index number of which is above 100. Metals remained low, and coals were also much cheaper than in the two preceding years.

Textiles, which fell heavily in 1890 and 1891, were on the average again lower. Cotton middling American, on the spot touched 3 9-16*d.* per lb. in March, futures being even cheaper, and was practically on a par with the lowest price in 1848, which was 3½*d.* It rose, however, to 5¼*d.* when it became known that the new crop would be much smaller. The average prices of wool were exceptionally low, and jute, very high at the beginning of the year, dropped about 50 per cent, but recovered again a small part of the decline. Oils were also lower than in 1891, and petroleum at or below 4½*d.* has never been so cheap.

The monthly fluctuations were as follows:—

1889	Dec.		73.7	1892	June		67.7
1890	"		71.1		July		67.8
1891	"		71.4		Aug.		67.4
1892	Jan.		70.0		Sept.		66.8
	Feb.		70.0		Oct.		67.4
	Mar.		69.1		Nov.		68.2
	Apr.		68.9		Dec.		67.7
	May		68.8				

The figure for September is the lowest touched during this century, and the index number for December is 5 per cent lower than at the end of 1891, and 8 per cent lower than in December, 1889.

The average price of bar silver was 39 13-16*d.* per oz., against 45 1-16*d.* in 1891, or about 34½ per cent under the old parity of 15½ silver to 1 gold, and the lowest price was 37¼*d.* in August.

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. SAUBRBECK.

ON SOME RELATIONS OF HUMAN STATURE TO MUSCULAR STRENGTH.

The following circular of information has recently been issued by the Physical Education Department of Amherst College.

It seems to be a prevailing idea that the physical strength of men when ascertained by comparative tests and in bodies well proportioned to the height is greatest in those of shorter bodily stature. Of course the acts of leaping, walking, throwing a ball, and similar feats would be better exhibited by men of longest limbs, because of longer leverage of trunk, arm, and leg. But when the muscles of a man are made to contract upon his own weight alone, we have been apt to think that the man of short joints has a better mechanical advantage against gravity than has the longer-limbed fellow.